

UNIVERSITY OF GÖTEBORG

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Department of Medical Biochemistry

February 4th, 1971

Prof. J. Lederberg
Department of Genetics
School of Medicine
Stanford University
STANFORD, California 94 305
U.S.A.

Dear Professor Lederberg:

Thank you for the nice letter of January 21st, where you urge us to make contact with Allen Duffield, stress the compatibility problem, and generously offer a visit to your lab.

I spoke to Dr. Duffield yesterday via a telephone call, which he made from Copenhagen. Unfortunately, his visit in Copenhagen ends today, so there was no possibility for us to meet. Anyway, the telephone call made some points clear:

We are in a preliminary phase, we want to evaluate the systems current for computer interpretation of mass spectra. We are aware, that installing the whole DENDRAL program, and the LISP compiler, will be time-consuming, and the possibility of incompatibility will be very great. We have a PDP 15 computer with disk, tape and display facilities. Duffield mentioned that your group uses an IBM 3060-67, which probably means that the program has to be rewritten to a large extent.

Duffield also mentioned that the DENDRAL group ^{is} heavily engaged in work on cyclic structures, and I understood, that further development of the structure generator will await the solution of this problem.

Evidently, there are no specific conditions that we have to fulfill in order to get a copy of the Dendral structure generator and the preliminary inference maker, other than the general remarks in your letter. Neither are

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there any restrictions due to military secrecy.

We also talked about your intention to incorporate library spectra into the Dendral scheme, and Duffield asked if you could get access to our library. I could not decide this myself, but promised to mention it to Prof. Sixten Abrahamsson, who is the boss for ^{the} massspectrometry-computer coupling here. He clarified, that the library is for sale through Wiley and Sons, either in book or tape form. The copyright belongs to them, so no "reciprocal world trade" could be made at this point.

Through Dr. Schroll, Duffield promised to send the current versions of the structure generator and the preliminary inference maker. This we greatly appreciate, and we hope that the trade can be more reciprocal in the future. If we make any developments pertinent to computer interpretation of mass spectra, we will let you know.

Prof. Abrahamsson will, I am told, visit Stanford in May this year. You may then get more information.

I promised Duffield to write to you again when we have gone through your material, about your plans.

Yours sincerely,



Jonas Blomberg
Department of Medical Biochemistry
University of Gothenburg
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S- 400 33 GÖTEBORG 33